

Dear Members of Labor and Public Employees Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Ira Revels and I live in New Britain, Connecticut. I support Senate Bill No. 1178: *An Act Expanding Connecticut Paid Sick Days*.

Being the caregiver for a loved one with Alzheimer's can be challenging and emotionally taxing, as well as financially draining. When my mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, it had a significant impact on my life, particularly my employment. This is the case for many people who find themselves in a similar situation.

Unfortunately, I was unable to access paid Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and paid sick days due to my lack of time on the job, which placed an additional financial burden on me while.

I cared for my mother. However, if Senate Bill 1178 was enacted, I could have used paid sick days to support my mother.

Senate Bill 1178 proposes to expand Connecticut's paid sick days law to cover all workers, regardless of the employer size or industry. It would eliminate the waiting period to take a paid sick day from 680 hours to immediately after the commencement of employment, and workers would accrue and use up to 80 hours of paid sick time per year. Additionally, the bill would align who a worker can use paid sick days to care for with Connecticut's paid family and medical leave law.

The proposed legislation would allow workers to take paid sick days to care for a child of any age, as well as their chosen family, including time to care for a family member who experiences family violence or sexual assault. The bill also protects against future pandemics by allowing paid sick time to be used when a worker's place of work or child's school/place of care is closed by public officials for a public health emergency.

In conclusion, I was negatively impacted by my mother's Alzheimer's diagnosis, which limited my ability to access paid FMLA. If Senate Bill 1178 was enacted, it would provide more support to caregivers like me by expanding paid sick days and aligning it with paid family and medical leave.

This would enable caregivers to provide support to their loved ones without facing financial hardship

This is why I support Senate Bill 1178: *AN ACT EXPANDING CONNECTICUT PAID SICK DAYS* and need a paid sick days law that:

1. Cover all workers regardless of employer size or industry!
2. Eliminates the waiting period to take a paid sick day from 680 hours to immediately after you start working!
3. Include all types of family structures and relationships which will allow workers to care for a child of any age, as well as their chosen family! The bill would also allow you to take paid sick time to care for a family member who experiences family violence or sexual assault.
4. Increase the number of hours of paid sick time workers can accrue and use per year from 40 to 80 hours.

5. Protect against future pandemics by allowing paid sick time to be used when a worker's place of work or child's school/place of care is closed by public officials for a public health emergency!

Thank you for your time,  
Ira Revels West Hartford, CT